

# Horseradish Growing & Care Guide for Boise and Treasure Valley Gardens

*A local gardening guide from Five Mile Farm & Greenhouses  
Boise, Idaho*

Horseradish grows very well in Boise and throughout the Treasure Valley when planted in full sun and well-drained soil. Once established, horseradish is a hardy perennial that produces flavorful roots year after year.

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## **PLANTING**

Horseradish grows best in full sun but can tolerate partial shade. If planting in the ground, loosen soil to a depth of about 12 inches and amend with compost. Loose, fertile soil is important to grow nice, large horseradish roots. Backfill the hole and plant the roots about 2-4 inches below the soil surface. Horseradish should be planted at a 45 degree angle so that the roots can radiate out beneath the soil as much as possible. The thinner portion of the root should be facing down. Once planted in the ground, it can be difficult to eradicate horseradish roots. If this is a concern, planting horseradish in a container is a viable approach. If planting in a container, make sure it has drainage holes and is at least 24 inches deep to allow the roots to grow properly. When planting multiple roots, make sure to space them at least 18" apart.

## **HARVESTING**

Do not harvest horseradish during the first year so the plant can become established. Horseradish grows the most during late summer and early autumn. For this reason, delay fall harvest until late October or early November, or just before the ground freezes.

Harvest by loosening the soil around the base of the plant with a shovel or garden fork. Then gently pull out the root from the ground or container. Any pieces of root that are left in the ground or container will be viable and continue to grow during the next growing season.

Another harvesting technique is to cut off only a portion of the root. This is possible because horseradish plants have a deep taproot. Cutting off a piece will not harm the plant.

Once harvested, horseradish can be stored in a cool, dry place for several months. For longer storage, it is recommended to wrap the roots in damp paper towels and store them in the refrigerator.

To enjoy horseradish's fresh flavor for even longer, you can also freeze it. Simply grate the root and place it in a freezer-safe container. Horseradish will keep its pungent taste for up to 6 months when frozen.

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Five Mile Farm & Greenhouses  
Boise's Local Garden Center Since 1983  
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